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Congress of the United States
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May 8, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Congress is currently grappling with the issue of providing a national safe harbor for businesses seeking to reopen safely. This debate is moot, however, if the Centers for Disease Control is unable to publish official guidance informing business owners how to keep their customers and employees safe. Furthermore, absent apolitical guidance written by public health experts, the American people will not have the confidence to patronize their favorite restaurant, bar, or venue. In poll after poll, an overwhelming majority of Americans are saying that the health and safety of them and their families come first. What good would liability protection be if customers do not show up?

That the virus is novel makes this even more challenging. There is too much we do not know. The CDC must not leave states, localities, and individual business owners to fend for themselves. To do so would be an abdication of the duty the American entrusted in the CDC. Recent reports that official CDC guidance was suppressed raise extreme concerns about political influence. This is no time for politics. The virus does not follow the election calendar.

Why was the leaked guidance not officially published? When will CDC issue industry-specific guidance for operating businesses safely? Will the White House endorse the safety guidelines and abide by them? On behalf of all Floridians and the American people, I believe it is critical we receive answers to these questions.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN